

## § 65.2

the Agency's effort in providing up-to-date identification and publication, in the form of the maps described in part 64, on special flood, mudslide (i.e., mudflow) and flood-related erosion hazards.

[48 FR 28278, June 21, 1983]

### § 65.2 Definitions.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this part, the definitions set forth in part 59 of this subchapter are applicable to this part.

(b) For the purpose of this part, a certification by a registered professional engineer or other party does not constitute a warranty or guarantee of performance, expressed or implied. Certification of data is a statement that the data is accurate to the best of the certifier's knowledge. Certification of analyses is a statement that the analyses have been performed correctly and in accordance with sound engineering practices. Certification of structural works is a statement that the works are designed in accordance with sound engineering practices to provide protection from the base flood. Certification of "as built" conditions is a statement that the structure(s) has been built according to the plans being certified, is in place, and is fully functioning.

[51 FR 30313, Aug. 25, 1986]

### § 65.3 Requirement to submit new technical data.

A community's base flood elevations may increase or decrease resulting from physical changes affecting flooding conditions. As soon as practicable, but not later than six months after the date such information becomes available, a community shall notify the Administrator of the changes by submitting technical or scientific data in accordance with this part. Such a submission is necessary so that upon confirmation of those physical changes affecting flooding conditions, risk premium rates and flood plain management requirements will be based upon current data.

[51 FR 30313, Aug. 25, 1986]

## 44 CFR Ch. I (10–1–99 Edition)

### § 65.4 Right to submit new technical data.

(a) A community has a right to request changes to any of the information shown on an effective map that does not impact flood plain or floodway delineations or base flood elevations, such as community boundary changes, labeling, or planimetric details. Such a submission shall include appropriate supporting documentation in accordance with this part and may be submitted at any time.

(b) All requests for changes to effective maps, other than those initiated by FEMA, must be made in writing by the Chief Executive Officer of the community (CEO) or an official designated by the CEO. Should the CEO refuse to submit such a request on behalf of another party, FEMA will agree to review it only if written evidence is provided indicating the CEO or designee has been requested to do so.

(c) Requests for changes to effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps (FBFMs) are subject to the cost recovery procedures described in 44 CFR part 72. As indicated in part 72, revisions requested to correct mapping errors or errors in the Flood Insurance Study analysis are not to be subject to the cost-recovery procedures.

[51 FR 30313, Aug. 25, 1986, as amended at 57 FR 29038, June 30, 1992; 61 FR 46331, Aug. 30, 1996; 62 FR 5736, Feb. 6, 1997]

EDITORIAL NOTE: For references to FR pages showing lists of eligible communities, see the List of CFR Sections Affected appearing in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

### § 65.5 Revision to special flood hazard area boundaries with no change to base flood elevation determinations.

(a) *Data requirements for topographic changes.* In many areas of special flood hazard (excluding V zones and floodways) it may be feasible to elevate areas with earth fill above the base flood elevation. Scientific and technical information to support a request to gain exclusion from an area of special flood hazard of a structure or parcel of land that has been elevated by the placement of fill shall include the following:

(1) A copy of the recorded deed indicating the legal description of the property and the official recordation information (deed book volume and page number) and bearing the seal of the appropriate recordation official (e.g., County Clerk or Recorder of Deeds).

(2) If the property is recorded on a plat map, a copy of the recorded plat indicating both the location of the property and the official recordation information (plat book volume and page number) and bearing the seal of the appropriate recordation official. If the property is not recorded on a plat map, copies of the tax map or other suitable maps are required to aid FEMA in accurately locating the property.

(3) If a legally defined parcel of land is involved, a topographic map indicating present ground elevations and date of fill. FEMA's determination as to whether a legally defined parcel of land is to be excluded from the area of special flood hazard shall be based upon a comparison of the ground elevations of the parcel with the elevations of the base flood. If the ground elevations of the entire legally defined parcel of land are at or above the elevations of the base flood, the parcel may be excluded from the area of special flood hazard.

(4) If a structure is involved, a topographic map indicating structure location and ground elevations including the elevations of the lowest floor (including basement) and the lowest adjacent grade to the structure. FEMA's determination as to whether a structure is to be excluded from the area of special flood hazard shall be based upon a comparison of the elevation of the lowest floor (including basement) and the elevation of the lowest adjacent grade with the elevation of the base flood. If the entire structure and the lowest adjacent grade are at or above the elevation of the base flood, the structure may be excluded from the area of special flood hazard.

(5) Data to substantiate the base flood elevation. If FEMA has completed a Flood Insurance Study (FIS), that data will be used to substantiate the base flood. Otherwise, data provided by an authoritative source, such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,

U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Soil Conservation Service, state and local water resource departments, or technical data prepared and certified by a registered professional engineer may be submitted. If base flood elevations have not previously been established, hydraulic calculations may also be requested.

(6) Where fill has been placed to raise the ground surface to or above the base flood elevation and the request to gain exclusion from an area of special flood hazard includes more than a single structure or a single lot, it must be demonstrated that fill will not settle below the elevation of the base flood, and that the fill is adequately protected from the forces of erosion, scour, or differential settlement as described below:

(i) Fill must be compacted to 95 percent of the maximum density obtainable with the Standard Proctor Test method issued by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM Standard D-698). This requirement applies to fill pads prepared for residential or commercial structure foundations and does not apply to filled areas intended for other uses.

(ii) Fill slopes for granular materials are not steeper than one vertical on one-and-one-half horizontal unless substantiating data justifying steeper slopes is submitted.

(iii) Adequate protection is provided fill slopes exposed to flood waters with expected velocities during the occurrence of the base flood of five feet per second or less by covering them with grass, vines, weeds, or similar vegetation undergrowth.

(iv) Adequate protection is provided fill slopes exposed to flood waters with velocities during the occurrence of the base flood of greater than five feet per second by armoring them with stone or rock slope protection.

(7) A revision of flood plain delineations based on fill must demonstrate that any such fill has not resulted in a floodway encroachment.

(b) *New topographic data.* The procedures described in paragraphs (a) (1) through (5) of this section may be also followed to request a map revision

when no physical changes have occurred in the area of special flood hazard, when no fill has been placed, and when the natural ground elevations, as evidenced by new topographic maps, more detailed or more accurate than those used to prepare the map to be revised, are shown to be above the elevation of the base flood.

(c) *Certification requirements.* The items required in paragraphs (a) (3) and (4) and (b) of this section shall be certified by a registered professional engineer or licensed land surveyor. Items required in paragraph (a)(6) of this section shall be certified by the community's NFIP permit official, a registered professional engineer, or an accredited soils engineer. Such certifications are subject to the provisions of § 65.2 of this subchapter.

(d) *Submission procedures.* All requests shall be submitted to the FEMA Regional Office servicing the community's geographic area or to the FEMA Headquarters Office in Washington, DC, and shall be accompanied by the appropriate payment, in accordance with 44 CFR part 72.

[51 FR 30313, Aug. 25, 1986; as amended at 61 FR 46331, Aug. 30, 1996; 62 FR 5736, Feb. 6, 1997]

#### § 65.6 Revision of base flood elevation determinations.

(a) *General conditions and data requirements.* (1) The supporting data must include all the information FEMA needs to review and evaluate the request. This may involve the requestor's performing new hydrologic and hydraulic analysis and delineation of new flood plain boundaries and floodways, as necessary.

(2) To avoid discontinuities between the revised and unrevised flood data, the necessary hydrologic and hydraulic analyses submitted by the map revision requestor must be extensive enough to ensure that a logical transition can be shown between the revised flood elevations, flood plain boundaries, and floodways and those developed previously for areas not affected by the revision. Unless it is demonstrated that it would not be appropriate, the revised and unrevised base flood elevations must match within

one-half foot where such transitions occur.

(3) Revisions cannot be made based on the effects of proposed projects or future conditions. Section 65.8 of this subchapter contains provisions for obtaining conditional approval of proposed projects that may effect map changes when they are completed.

(4) The datum and date of releveing of benchmarks, if any, to which the elevations are referenced must be indicated.

(5) Maps will not be revised when discharges change as a result of the use of an alternative methodology or data for computing flood discharges unless the change is statistically significant as measured by a confidence limits analysis of the new discharge estimates.

(6) Any computer program used to perform hydrologic or hydraulic analyses in support of a flood insurance map revision must meet all of the following criteria:

(i) It must have been reviewed and accepted by a governmental agency responsible for the implementation of programs for flood control and/or the regulation of flood plain lands. For computer programs adopted by non-Federal agencies, certification by a responsible agency official must be provided which states that the program has been reviewed, tested, and accepted by that agency for purposes of design of flood control structures or flood plain land use regulation.

(ii) It must be well-documented including source codes and user's manuals.

(iii) It must be available to FEMA and all present and future parties impacted by flood insurance mapping developed or amended through the use of the program. For programs not generally available from a Federal agency, the source code and user's manuals must be sent to FEMA free of charge, with fully-documented permission from the owner that FEMA may release the code and user's manuals to such impacted parties.

(7) A revised hydrologic analysis for flooding sources with established base flood elevations must include evaluation of the same recurrence interval(s) studied in the effective FIS, such as